

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [027] with the following amended paragraph:

[027] For TCP/IP networks, an identifier or reference may be a uniform resource locator (URL), and in some circumstances a fully qualified URL. A “fully-qualified” URL includes a complete URL, and is in the form http://hostname/url or “//hostname/url”. For a World Wide Web page, this means that the URL includes a hostname plus a path plus the name of the resource. For example, consider a web page named “item.html”. Consider too a path for that web page named “shopping/product”. Further consider that the host for the web page is www.uspto.net. Thus, the full-qualified link to this web page is http://www.uspto.net/shopping/product/item.html.

Please replace paragraphs [035] – [038] with the following amended paragraphs:

[035] These modifications and others described below may be made in a number of ways. These modifications generally take the form of inserting a surrogate server hostname into references to the remote server hostname, and/or replacing the remote server hostname with the surrogate server hostname. The surrogate server hostname may be the same as the proxy server hostname, or it may be a hostname of another server of the surrogate system. The following discussion will include examples of how TCP/IP and HTTP references may be modified, along with actual examples of how the modifications would appear. In these examples, it is assumed that the hostname of the proxy server 110 is “irs.com”, the hostname of the remote server 140 is

“uspto.net” and the reference to the remote server 140 is a fully qualified URL or hyperlink such as <http://www.uspto.net/shopping/product/item.html>.

[036] In one manner of modification, the surrogate server hostname is appended to the hostname of the remote server 140. In the example, the modified reference is <http://www.uspto.net.irs.com/shopping/product/item.html>.

[037] In another manner of modification, the surrogate server hostname is inserted into reference to the remote page and the hostname of the remote server 140 is made part of the local path. Here, the reference is modified so that the surrogate server hostname is the only hostname in the reference. In the example, the modified reference is <http://irs.com/www.uspto.net/dir/file.html>. In this case, when the proxy server 110 receives a request with such as reference, the surrogate server hostname can be stripped out, and the hostname of the remote server 140 can be drawn from the front of the path.

[038] A third manner of modification is a variation of the second manner of modification, just described. In this modification, two or three additional changes are made. First, the hostname of the remote server 140 is made to read backwards. In the example, the modified reference is <http://irs.com/ten.otsu.www/shopping/prodct/item.html>. Second, periods (“.”) are changed to slashes (“/”) in the hostname of the remote server 140. In the example, the modified reference is <http://irs.com/ten/otsu/www/shopping/product/item.html>. A separator, such as a caret (“^”) may be inserted between the reversed hostname of the remote server 140 and the remainder of the path. In the example, the modified reference is <http://irs.com/ten/otsu/^/shopping/product/item.html>.